

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 04172 071212Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /098 W

-----085525 071215Z /53

R 070743Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4774

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 4172

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, ET, SO

SUBJECT: EPMG MILITARY INTENTIONS AGAINST SOMALIA

REF: MOGADISCIO 1124

1. WHILE IT RISKY TO TRY TO ANTICIPATE MENGISTU IN MATTERS OF VITAL ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL INTEREST, WE INCLINED DOUBT THAT ETHIOPIA HAS ANY IMMEDIATE MILITARY INTENTIONS AGAINST SOMALIA. DESPITE CURRENT LEVEL OF INVECTIVE AND INCREASE OF INSURGENT ACTIVITIES IN OGADEN, FACT REMAINS THAT BULK OF ETHIOPIAN ARMY IS STILL CONCENTRATED IN NORTH, AND THAT MILITIA FORCE BEING TRAINED NEAR ADDIS AND SO PROUDLY DISPLAYED IN PUBLIC 11 DAYS AGO, IS STILL IN CAMP TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. APART FROM AIR FORCE THEREFORE (WHICH ALSO HAS MISSIONS IN NORTH) STRENGTH OF ANY POSSIBLE STRIKING FORCE IN OGADEN IS LIMITED, AND IN ANY CASE MOST OF THE TROOPS THERE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ADDIS 04172 071212Z

HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL COPING WITH INSURGENTS.

2. IN ADDITION, MENGISTU VERY PROBABLY CONSIDERS HIMSELF ON GOOD DIPLOMATIC WICKET FOR TIME BEING AND IS UNLIKELY THROW AWAY LIGHTLY WHAT HE NO DOUBT CONSIDERS BE ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION UNLESS SITUATION IN OGADEN DETERIORATES TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT, DIPLOMATIC ADVANTAGE OR NO, HE

CONCLUDES HE MUST ACT MILITARILY AGAINST SOMALIA. THUS,
SOMALIA/KENYA CLASH CERTAINLY CAME AS WINDFALL TO ETHIOPIANS
AND GAVE IMPORTANT SUBSTANCE TO HIS REMARKS ABOUT TERRI-
TORY INTEGRITY AND SANCTITY OF OAU CHARTER AT LIBREVILLE,
BOTH OF WHICH COMMAND STRONG SUPPORT IN BLACK AFRICA
REGARDLESS OF HOW ONE COUNTRY VIEWS ANOTHER FOR OTHER
REASONS.

3. POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT IS THERE, BUT UNLESS SOMALIS
ESCALATE LEVEL OF INFILTRATION TO POINT WHERE MENGISTU
PERCEIVES ETHIOPIA IS IN SERIOUS DANGER OF PERMANENTLY
LOSING LARGE CHUNKS OF OGADEN AND/OR LOSING EITHER OF
MAJOR TOWNS OF DIRE DAWA OR HARAR, OR TO POINT WHERE
MENGISTU BELIEVES HE CAN CONCLUSIVELY SHOW THAT NUMBER
OF SOMALI INFILTRATORS CAN REASONABLY BE LABELLED AS
INVASION, WE THINK HE WILL BE SLOW TO LAUNCH OFFENSIVE
ACTION OUTSIDE OF ETHIOPIA'S BORDERS.

TIENKEN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, MILITARY PLANS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS04172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770241-0314
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770785/aaaacvre.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b15e3570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOGADISCIO 1124
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1944763
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EPMG MILITARY INTENTIONS AGAINST SOMALIA
TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, ET, SO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b15e3570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009